Completed Pollution Prevention Project Case Study

United States Department of Energy
Office of Environmental Management
Fact Sheet

Asphalt Recycling

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Original Problem

Before construction on the new building for the Strategic Computing Complex (SCC) could begin, several parking lots had to be built to replace the parking spaces that the SCC would cover. In addition, a small section of West Jemez Road had to be improved to handle the increased traffic and correct a minor visibility problem. The participants in this project reduced the cost without compromising quality.

The Project Solution

A portable milling machine was brought to the construction zone. As the 700ft section of road was torn up, the old asphalt was ground into small pieces by the milling machine. The asphalt pieces were first used as a base for the temporary road, and then they were used as base material for some of the new parking lots after the temporary road was removed.

Value of Improvement

The Asphalt Recycling project saved resources and money. Reusing the old asphalt as base material saved about $21,000 in acquisition costs of new materials and about $34,000 in disposal fees. Over 1500 cubic feet of old asphalt did not have to be sent to the landfill. As other road construction projects take place, the millings are being stored for future use.

Lifecycle Waste Reduction	
Lifecycle Waste Reduction	1500 cubic yd.
Commencement Date	2000
Project Useful Life (Years)	Indefinite

DOE Monetary Benefits	
Total Project Cost	NA
Lifecycle Savings	$55,000
Return on Investment	NA

Benefits At-A-Glance

- This project saved about $55,000 in material acquisition costs and disposal fees.
- Reduces waste and saves space in the landfill.
- Reduces the amount of resources consumed.

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Summary Data	
Priority Area:	Waste Minimization Projects
Project Type:	Source Reduction
Total Project Cost:	NA
Lifecycle Savings:	$55,000 for this project
Implementing Group:	FWO-UI / PMD/DS
Benefiting Group:	PMD/DS
Useful Life Years:	Indefinite
Return on Investment:	NA
Lifecycle Waste Reduction:	1500 cubic yards construction waste for this project
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Building Upon An Office of Science and Technology Demonstration Success